

REMARKS

The examiner requested that a priority statement in regard to 35 U.S.C. 119 be added to the specification. As discussed with the examiner by phone on 1/12/2004, no such requirement is contained in MPEP. The examiner's statement was in error. No action is therefore taken by the applicant.

As requested by the examiner, the claims 1-16 have been amended to remove reference numerals.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance since applicant has fulfilled all formal requirements set forth in the last office action..

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail (gudrun.draudt@t-online.de) from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on January 12, 2004,

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